

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image reading apparatus which comprises an image sensing unit for reading an image, and a communication unit for transferring an image signal
5 read by the image sensing unit to an external apparatus, comprising:
 - a detector for detecting presence/absence of abnormality of the communication unit; and
 - 10 a controller for, when said detector detects any abnormality of the communication unit, setting said image reading apparatus in a power saving mode.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least one of an internal circuit and mechanical position of the image sensing unit is initialized in
15 the power saving mode.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least one of an internal circuit and function of the image sensing unit is set in a sleep state in the power saving mode.
- 20 4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image sensing unit comprises:
 - a light source for irradiating a document with light;
 - 25 an image sensor for converting light reflected by a document irradiated with light from said light source into an electrical image signal;

a moving unit for moving a relative position
between an image of the document and said image sensor;
and

5 a setting unit for setting at least one of said
light source and said moving unit in the power saving
mode in accordance with a setup of said controller.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, further
comprising an A/D converter for converting the image
signal output from the image sensing unit into a
10 digital signal,

 wherein the communication unit transfers the
digital image signal converted by said A/D converter to
the external apparatus.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
15 detector detects any abnormality of the communication
unit by detecting a change in potential of a power
supply line included in the communication unit.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
detector detects any abnormality of the communication
20 unit by detecting a change in potential of a data line
included in the communication unit.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the
communication unit has a function of allowing to
plug/unplug a cable without turning off a power supply
25 of the external apparatus.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the function of the communication unit complies with USB or IEEE1394.

10. A control method for an image reading apparatus which comprises an image sensing unit for reading an image, and a communication unit for transferring an image signal read by the image sensing unit to an external apparatus, comprising:

10 a detection step of detecting presence/absence of abnormality of the communication unit; and

a control step of setting, when any abnormality of the communication unit is detected in the detection step, the image reading apparatus in a power saving mode.

15 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein at least one of an internal circuit and mechanical position of the image sensing unit is initialized in the power saving mode.

12. The method according to claim 10, wherein at least one of an internal circuit and function of the image sensing unit is set in a sleep state in the power saving mode.

13. The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

25 an A/D conversion step of converting the image signal output from the image sensing unit into a digital signal; and

a transfer step of transferring the digital image signal converted in the A/D conversion step from the communication unit to the external apparatus.

14. The method according to claim 10, wherein the
5 detection step includes a step of detecting any abnormality of the communication unit by detecting a change in potential of a power supply line included in the communication unit.

15. The method according to claim 10, wherein the
10 detection step includes a step of detecting any abnormality of the communication unit by detecting a change in potential of a data line included in the communication unit.

16. The method according to claim 10, wherein the
15 communication unit has a function of allowing to plug/unplug a cable without turning off a power supply of the external apparatus.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the
function of the communication unit complies with USB or
20 IEEE1394.

18. An image processing system which comprises an image reading apparatus for outputting an image signal read by an image sensing unit to a communication unit, and a host apparatus for processing the image signal
25 sent from the image reading apparatus via the communication unit,

the image reading apparatus comprising:

a detector for detecting presence/absence of abnormality of the communication unit; and

a controller for, when said detector detects any abnormality of the communication unit, setting the

5 image reading apparatus in a power saving mode.

19. The system according to claim 18, wherein at least one of an internal circuit and mechanical position of the image sensing unit is initialized in the power saving mode.

10 20. The system according to claim 18, wherein at least one of an internal circuit and function of the image sensing unit is set in a sleep state in the power saving mode.

21. The system according to claim 18, further

15 comprising an A/D converter for converting the image signal output from the image sensing unit into a digital signal,

wherein the communication unit transfers the digital image signal converted by said A/D converter to

20 the host apparatus.

22. The system according to claim 18, wherein said detector detects any abnormality of the communication unit by detecting a change in potential of a power supply line included in the communication unit.

25 23. The system according to claim 18, wherein said detector detects any abnormality of the communication

unit by detecting a change in potential of a data line included in the communication unit.

24. The system according to claim 18, wherein the communication unit has a function of allowing to

5 plug/unplug a cable without turning off a power supply of the host apparatus.

25. The system according to claim 24, wherein the function of the communication unit complies with USB or IEEE1394.

10 26. A storage medium that stores a program for implementing a control method for an image reading apparatus which comprises an image sensing unit for reading an image, a communication unit for transferring an image signal read by the image sensing unit to an 15 external apparatus, and a detector for detecting presence/absence of abnormality of the communication unit, comprising:

computer readable program code means for, when the detector detects any abnormality of the 20 communication unit, setting the image reading apparatus in a power saving mode.

27. The medium according to claim 26, wherein the communication unit has a function of allowing to plug/unplug a cable without turning off a power supply 25 of the external apparatus.

28. The medium according to claim 27, wherein the function of the communication unit complies with USB or IEEE1394.